

Message Text

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PAGE 01 NEW DE 02879 281026Z

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ACTION SCS-03

INFO OCT-01 NEA-05 ISO-00 L-03 SY-07 CIAE-00 INR-10

NSAE-00 /029 W

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O R 280950Z FEB 74

FM AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

TO AMCONSUL CALCUTTA IMMEDIATE

INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 9968

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE NEW DELHI 2879

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: CASC IN

SUBJECT: HARCOS/FLETCHER

REF: CALCUTTA 0395 (BEING REPEATED TO DEPT)

1. EMBASSY VIEW IS THAT IT WOULD BE A MISTAKE FOR THE CONSULATE GENERAL TO BECOME DIRECTLY INVOLVED IN THE CASE BY PERMITTING HARCOS AND FLETCHER TO RESIDE IN A CONGEN APARTMENT AFTER RELEASE ON BAIL. YOU COULD NOT GUARANTEE THEIR PRESENCE FOR LATER TRIAL, AS YOU NOTED IN REFTEL, NOR WOULD YOU WANT TO PERMIT CLOSE POLICE SURVEILLANCE. NO MATTER WHAT UNDERSTANDING WAS REACHED WITH LOCAL AUTHORITIES TO THE EFFECT THAT THE CONGEN HAD NO RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE CONTINUED PRESENCE OF HARCOS AND FLETCHER, A GENERAL IMPRESSION OF DIRECT USG INVOLVEMENT IN THE TRIAL WOULD BE GIVEN. IT MIGHT EVEN BE ALLEGED THAT THE CONGEN WAS GIVING THE TWO MEN ACCOMODATIONS IN ORDR TO BRIEF THEM PRIOR TO THEIR APPEARANCE IN COURT.

2. WE RECOMMEND THAT CONGEN PURSUE WITH MISS DONOVAN, INDIAN ATTORNEY DUDHEWALA, AND MAGISTRATE ALTERNATIVES SUCH AS HOTEL ROOMS OR A RENTED APARTMENT. YOU SHOULD BRIEF MISS DONOVAN ON THE ABOVE REASONS FOR NOT BEING ABLE TO ASSUME RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE TWO MEN BY PLACING THEM IN USG QUARTERS, EXPLAINING THAT WE FEEL THIS COURSE

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OF ACTION IS IN THEIR OWN BEST INTEREST. (FYI: WE ARE

ANXIOUS TO AVOID THE IMPRESSION THAT OUR REFUSAL IS BASED
SIMPLY ON A STRICT INTERPRETATION OF THE RULES ON OCCUPANCY
OF GOVERNMENT QUARTERS. END FYI.)
MOYNIHAN

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Message Attributes

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